

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01043 170717Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
OES-07 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 170347Z APR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0438
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EWT CH US UR

SUBJ: PEKING PROPAGANDA SUPPORTS AMERICAN SHIPPING INDUSTRY

1. IN AN ARTICLE IN THE APRIL 13 PEOPLE'S DAILY, THE PRC HAS DISCUSSED THE GROWING ACTIVITIES OF SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPPING AND THE DANGERS THESE POSE TO THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT FLEET. THE ARTICLE CITES AN ADVERTISEMENT PLACED BY THE AMERICAN OCEAN SHIPPING COMMITTEE (?) IN THE MARCH 27 ISSUE OF U.S. NEW S AND WORLD REPORT WHICH CASTIGATED THE SOVIET-OWNED BALT-ATLANTIC COMPANY FOR DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING IN COVERING UP ITS RUSSIAN AFFILIATION. THE PD REPRINTS BOTH THE ORIGINAL BALT-ATLANTIC AD, FEATURING A PICTURE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON OVER THE MOTTO "THE FAST WAY TO WASHINGTON, JACKSON, JEFFERSON AND LINCOLN," AND A CARTOON OF A SOVIET BEAR HOLDING A GEORGE WASHINGTON MASK OVER HIS SNOUT.

2. THE PD ARTICLE RESTATES AMERICAN SHIPPERS' ARGUMENTS THAT THE RECENT RAPID INCREASE IN SOVIET SHIPPING IS DUE TO MOSCOW'S GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES AND IS DESIGNED TO GIVE THE KREMLIN A GREATER CAPACITY FOR THE TRANSPORT OF MILITARY MATERIEL. IT ALSO CITES AN ARTICLE IN THE LONDON WEEKLY "EASTERN TIMES" TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SOVIET FLEET'S RECENT RISE TO SIXTH PLACE IN THE WORLD HAS TURNED IT INTO

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MENTS THAT THE RECENT RAPID INCREASE IN SOVIET SHIPPING IS DUE TO MOSCOW'S GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES AND IS DESIGNED TO GIVE THE KREMLIN A GREATER CAPACITY FOR THE TRANSPORT OF MILITARY MATERIEL. IT ALSO CITES AN ARTICLE IN THE LONDON WEEKLY "EASTERN TIMES" TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SOVIET FLEET'S RECENT RISE TO SIXTH PLACE IN THE WORLD HAS TURNED IT INTO

A "TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS FLEET FOR USE FOR MILITARY PURPOSES." PEOPLE'S DAILY CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT THIS IS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF HOW MOSCOW USES AMERICA'S WEAK POINTS IN ORDER TO "LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE," AND IMPLICITLY ENDORSES THE AMERICAN SHIPPERS' CALL TO SHIP IN AMERICAN BOTTOMS.

3. COMMENT: AS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT, THE PRC PRESS SEEMS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR EXAMPLES OF AMERICAN INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO STAND UP TO WHAT PEKING VIEWS AS MOSCOW'S INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR POWER AND INFLUENCE.
WOODCOCK

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